Newton Seeks to Show Group Coerces Judges

OAKLAND, Calif., Oct. 13 (AP)—The Citizens for Law and Order says it has 649 members and keeps a regular box score on judges, watching for "flagrant leniency."

"We're trying to protect society from the mad dogs who are knocking policemen on the head and attacking innocent people," said one of the organization's members, Judge Charles Fisher, of Oakland-Piedmont Municipal Court.

Fisher, 75, was named Tuesday by defense attorney Charles Garry as a "star witness" to be called to support Huey P. Newton's claim that the citizens group has intimidated all 25 Alameda County judges, making them unqualified to preside at the Black Panther leader's third trial on charges of killing a policeman.

The president of CLO, which was founded in June 1970, "categorically" denied that his group either demands the "harshest penalties" or is intimidating judges.

"We are dedicated to the maintenance of law and order," said president Earl W. Huntting, 60, a sales executive. "We would like to see the court impose proper sentences for crimes."

The group, which he said operates from members' dues ranging from $5 to $100, monitors courts in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and supplies weekly box scores to news media showing what sentences were doled out for what convictions.

CLO also publishes a monthly bulletin containing long articles about law enforcement problems. It is there, said Huntting, that individual judges are singled out occasionally for a "flagrant case of undue leniency."

The September 1971 bulletin mentions a Contra Costa Superior Court judge for refusing to send a young man to jail in 1970 despite a diagnostic study finding that he was "a vicious animal."

Other bulletin articles have covered the background of the late Soledad Brother George Jackson, a plea to Berkeley citizens not to move out and "leave their city to the radicals," and criticisms of allegedly slanted news coverage.

"Any judge who is intimidated is the type of man who knows at heart he is wrong," Fisher said.